(a) whether it is a fact that Saudi Arabian Kingdom has assured our Government that it will meet India's crude oil demands, however large, in future; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Saudi Arabia has assured supply of any additional requirement of crude oil to India. As India's import of crude oil is likely to double over the next twenty years, import from Saudi Arabia might also increase commensurately.

Tamper proof seal for LPG cylinders

4287. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the woes of the people due to large scale pilferage of LPG before the delivery of LPG cylinder to the customer in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon;

(c) whether the present plastic seals are not tamper proof and that leads to pilferage of LPG;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard, State-wise and the steps being taken to fix tamper proof seals on the LPG cylinders; and

(e) what is the accountability of oil companies in ensuring tamper proof LPG cylinder particularly when they demand price increase often?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported 14 established complaints of pilferage of LPG against their LPG distributors during 2004-05. The State-wise details are as under:—

Name of State	Number of Complaints
Delhi	3
Gujarat	2
Rajasthan	4
Uttar Pradesh	3
Punjab	2

At present, OMCs are using heat shrinkable preformed Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) seals, developed and recommended by the LPG Equipment

Research Centre (LERC), as a tamper evident sealing system, for LPG cylinders with a view to supplying correct weight gas to the consumers. PVC seals are difficult to duplicate, shrink at high temperature and require special technical expertise to manufacture.

Besides, the following measures are being taken to prevent the supply of under-weight cylinders by way of pilferage:—

(i) LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 has been promulgated. As per this Order, supply of partially used cylinders to LPG consumers by the distributors of OMCs had been prohibited. Such offence is punishable with imprisonment from 3 months to 7 years under the Essential Commodities Act.

(ii) State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of the above Order.

(iii) Marketing Disclipline Guidelines (MDG) for LPG distributors of OMCs have been laid down by the Government in April, 2001. According to these guidelines, in case of establishment of any complaint of supply of partially used cylinders to customer, a fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG pilfered/supplied short at commercial rate for 1st offence, Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG pilfered/supplied short at commercial rate for 2nd offence, and termination for 3rd offence by the distributors is imposed.

(iv) LPG distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to supply the cylinders of right quantity and quality to their customers. The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributor's godown, delivery point as well as en route to ensure that no pilferage take place. On the establishment of any complaint of supply of partially used cylinder to customers, action against he erring distributor is taken in terms of MDG/or distributorship agreement.

GAIL's projects in Bangladesh

4288. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has finalized gas pipeline projects in Bangladesh and has signed MoU with its counterpart Petrobangla recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether as a reciprocal gesture for consultancy services rendered